TRUSTEE ELECTION 2026 · FOR WHĀNAU AND MEMBERS

Meet the nominees

Nominations for Trustees of Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Charitable Trust closed at 3pm on Thursday 19 November 2026. Nine nominations were received for five Trustee positions. The Trustees will recommend at the AGM on Sunday 29 November 2026 that the election be adjourned to a resumed AGM, proposed for 6pm Wednesday 17 March 2027, with these nominations carried over, subject to each nominee confirming. Ngā mihi nui to every nominee for putting their name forward to serve our iwi.

Important updates

Changes since the call for nominations

- **Five Trustee positions are available**, not four as stated in the call for nominations.
- **Proxy votes will be accepted**, including for the Trustee election. The original notices said voting would be in person only. If you cannot attend, you can appoint a proxy to vote for you: complete the proxy form and return it to the Trust office (10 Gordon Street, Dannevirke, or secretary@rangitane.co.nz) by 5pm Friday 27 November 2026. A proxy may vote on the motion to adjourn the election and in the election. No person may hold more than five proxies.
- **Attendance is encouraged, not required.** A nominee who cannot attend can provide a short video of up to two minutes, or a written statement read out on their behalf by a person they nominate.
- **Recommendation to adjourn the election.** The Trustees will recommend that Members vote at the AGM to adjourn the election to a resumed AGM, with a new call for nominations on Friday 11 December 2026, with nominations proposed to close at 5pm Tuesday 2 March 2027. This is the Trustees' preferred way forward, in fairness to whānau who may have stood had the information been correct. See the Trustee Election 2026 FAQs.

The nominees

Nine nominees for five positions

Nominee	Hapū / marae
Joanna Hoera	Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae
Aaron Riki Karena	Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae
Aroha Ripeka Kingi	Ngāti Mutuahi, Ngāti Pakapaka · Mākirikiri and Kaitoki Marae
Taylor Tohunui o te Rangi Mihaere	Mākirikiri Marae
Roimata-Aroha Mitchell	Ngāti Mutuahi · Mākirikiri Marae
Matthew Ngaputa-Cripps	Ngāti Te Rangiwhakaewa · Mākirikiri Marae
Mahalia Paewai	Ngāti Mutuahi
Stephen Paewai	Ngāti Mutuahi · Mākirikiri Marae
Te Turanga Reweti	Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order by surname. Three nominees have self-declared for the tikanga and whakapapa seat: Aroha Ripeka Kingi, Stephen Paewai and Te Turanga Reweti.

How the vote works – at a glance

Trustee election 2026

- **When:** at the resumed AGM, proposed for 6pm Wednesday 17 March 2027, if Members vote to adjourn the election.
- **Who can vote:** Adult Members (18 or over), in person or by proxy.
- **Tikanga and whakapapa seat:** the Trust Deed requires the Board to always have at least one Trustee skilled and knowledgeable in matters of whakapapa and tikanga. Three nominees have self-declared for this seat (Aroha Ripeka Kingi, Stephen Paewai and Te Turanga Reweti), so Members first vote for one of them (Stage 1), then for up to four of the remaining candidates (Stage 2).
- **Counting and results:** the Returning Officer runs the election and counts the votes. A tie for the last seat is decided by drawing lots, as the Trust Deed requires.
- **Full details:** see *How the Vote Works*.

Documents for whānau

Available on our website

- Trustee Election 2026 FAQs
- Join the AGM Online (poster)
- How the Vote Works
- AGM 2026 Proxy Form
- Who Governs Our Entities
- How We Appoint People to Governance Roles
- Expression of Interest Questionnaire

All documents are available on our website: https://www.rangitane.co.nz/

Questions: please email the Secretary at secretary@rangitane.co.nz. **Trust Deed review.** The Trust Deed is currently under review. Any findings will be shared with whānau, with a view to holding a Special General Meeting (SGM) to make any changes whānau wish.

Nominee biographies

Biographies are published as provided by each nominee.

Joanna Hoera

Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae

Ko Ruahine te maunga
Ko Manawatu te awa
Ko Kaitoki te marae
Ko Ngāti Pakapaka te hapū
Ko Te Rangiwhakaewa te tangata
Ko Rangitāne te Iwi
Ko Tai Hoera rāua ko Kuini Hoera nee Te Ture ōku mātua
Ko Joanna Hoera tōku ingoa
E noho ana au ki Ahuriri inaianei

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

I was educated and raised in Dannevirke with my Father, Mother and 8 siblings. Whakapapa has formed an integral part of my learning and in particular my connection as ngā uri o Rangitāne. Most of my work life has been in the Mental Health Sector where I gained a BA from Massey University in Psychology and Māori Studies. I have led teams and managed services in this field. More recently my work has been in Homelessness/Rough Sleeping and Emergency Housing. My 16 years as a Board Member of St Joseph's Māori Girls College, Greenmeadows, Napier has allowed for extensive governance experience that incorporates and adheres to te ao Māori.

WHY TRUSTEE?

I would like to contribute to the future direction of our iwi utilising the skills and experience I have gained in governance and relationship building. I have been fortunate to the teachings and knowledge handed down by kuia and kaumatua in Tamaki Nui a Rua rohe this is inclusive of whakapapa, tikanga, kawa and te taiao. I have extensive knowledge regarding our land having researched land titles for our whanau. Having had worked for the iwi I have an understanding of the organisational dynamics within our structure and have been involved in policy development for the iwi. I have previously represented as a board member on behalf of Rangitane in my role as team leader of Manawarangi. “Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua”.

Aaron Riki Karena

Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae

I am the son of Christine and Riki Karena, with whakapapa to Rangitāne through Hirai and Hoera Te Rangiwhakaewa. I am Ngāti Pakapaka, with strong whānau connections to Kaitoki Marae and Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua.

Together with my wahine, Emily, we are raising our three sons, Braxton, Kupa and Riki-Tai, at home amongst our whānau in Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua. We are fortunate to be raising our tamariki surrounded by our people, our marae and our kōhanga reo, and soon Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua, ensuring they grow up connected to their whakapapa, identity and whenua.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

I am a Chartered Accountant with over 15 years of experience in community governance, alongside a background in financial management, commercial leadership and iwi development. My governance experience spans iwi investment, professional accountancy, community funding and grassroots kaupapa, including roles with the National Māori Accountants Board, National Rural Accountants Board, Rangitāne o Manawatū Investment Trust Board, Lottery Fund Lower North Island Committee and Kaitoki Marae Committee, among many others. I also serve our community as a Justice of the Peace.

I am currently the General Manager of Tū Mai Rā Investments LP, where I lead the financial and commercial aspects of our PSGE investment portfolio, focused on strengthening our commercial assets, creating sustainable opportunities and delivering long-term intergenerational benefits for our whānau.

In recent years, I have made it a personal priority to build and strengthen relationships with funders and key partners on behalf of our rūnanga. I have actively encouraged them to visit our rohe, meet our people and gain a deeper understanding of our aspirations and the mahi happening across our communities. Through relationships with organisations such as Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), Eastern & Central Community Trust (ECCT) and the DIA Lotteries funds, we are beginning to see the tangible benefits of this mahi, with positive outcomes for both our rūnanga and hapū. I have also made a conscious effort to maintain and grow our relationships with our whanaunga boards at Rangitāne o Manawatū, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Wairau, recognising the importance of staying connected and working together wherever we can.

While I bring a strong commercial and financial lens to the board table, I am equally committed to being present and contributing on the ground. I take pride in showing up, representing our board and supporting the many kaupapa happening across our rohe. Whether that means attending our events, MCing, cooking the BBQ or leading the hāngī out the back, mowing the lawns beforehand or getting stuck in at a working bee, I believe leadership is just as much about being present and willing to lend a hand as it is about the decisions we make around the board table.

This year, I stepped outside my comfort zone to take the stage at our regional kapa haka competition and proudly represent Rangitāne. It was another opportunity to challenge myself, support our kaupapa and contribute to our iwi in a different way.

When I put my name forward for something, I don't do so lightly. I give it my all, and I believe my track record across the governance roles I have held reflects that commitment. I take seriously the responsibility of representing our people, nurturing relationships and following through on the things I commit to. I turn 35 this week, and I know I still have plenty more to contribute.

WHY TRUSTEE?

For me, my why has always been our mokopuna.

My grandfather was one of the original trustees of Te Tahua Trust, and his contribution to our people continued through my mum and aunties, who have each carried that commitment in their own way. I feel fortunate to come from a whānau that has shown me what it means to serve our people, and I recognise the responsibility that comes with that legacy.

I believe it is now our generation's turn to step forward, bringing the skills, knowledge and experiences we have gained to build on the foundations laid by those who came before us. Not to replace their mahi, but to honour it, strengthen it and carry it forward.

Ultimately, that is what drives me. To do my part, alongside others, to ensure the decisions we make, the relationships we build and the opportunities we create today contribute to the prosperity and wellbeing of our future mokopuna.

Aroha Ripeka Kingi

Ngāti Mutuahi, Ngāti Pakapaka · Mākirikiri and Kaitoki Marae

Ko Ruahine ngā rae maunga.
Ko Kurahaupō te waka.
Ko Te Awa Pōkere o Tamakuku te awa.
Ko Mākirikiri me Kaitoki ngā marae.
Ko Ngāti Mutuahi, ko Ngāti Pakapaka ngā hapū o Ngāti Te Rangiwhakaewa.
Ko Rangitāne nui tonu te iwi.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Ko Aroha Ripeka Kingi ahau. I have a background in Māori-medium education, te reo Māori and iwi and hapū development, with experience across kura kaupapa Māori, kura ā iwi, bilingual education and adult literacy. I have worked as a kaiako since 2009, including teaching across a range of year levels, supporting kapa haka and ngā mahi a Rēhia, and working alongside whānau and kura communities. My qualifications include a Bachelor of Education in Māori Medium Teaching, a Diploma in Te Reo Māori and Iwi and Hapū Development, Te Reo Rangatira, Te Aupikitanga and ongoing study in Te Pinakitanga. I am passionate about iwi and hapū development, the kaupapa o te kāinga, hauora, te reo Māori, mātauranga and the long-term wellbeing of Rangitāne and its people.

I bring extensive experience in Māori-medium education, te reo Māori, tikanga and working alongside whānau and kura communities. My background includes teaching, kapa haka leadership, and qualifications in Māori education, te reo Māori and iwi and hapū development. I offer strong communication and collaboration skills, an understanding of kaupapa Māori, and a commitment to supporting the aspirations and wellbeing of our iwi and hapū.

WHY TRUSTEE?

I am standing because I want to contribute to the development and long-term wellbeing of Rangitāne and our hapū. I am passionate about the kaupapa o te kāinga, particularly hauora, te reo Māori, mātauranga and creating meaningful opportunities for our people. I would bring my professional experience, cultural knowledge and commitment to working collectively, making thoughtful decisions that support the aspirations of our whānau, hapū and future generations.

Taylor Tohunui o te Rangi Mihaere

Mākirikiri Marae

Taylor Tohunui Oterangi Mihaere ahau
Ko Taylor Samuel Mihaere toku Papa,
Ko Lassie Rahikoia Aroha Mehikore Mihaere (Rangihuna) toku Mama,
Ko Rangiwhakaewa te tāngata
Ko Makirikiri toku marae
Ko Rangitane toko iwi.

Taylor served 21 years in the New Zealand Army, specialising in infantry operations and training, retiring as a Staff Sergeant in 1997. He has extensive experience across construction, tertiary education, and defence, including roles with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and the New Zealand Defence Force, where he is currently employed as Senior Evaluator – Operations Team Development.

He has owned and operated construction, farming, and residential property businesses, and has worked closely with government agencies, councils, and education providers. Taylor also previously served as a trustee for the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust.

Roimata-Aroha Mitchell

Ngāti Mutuahi · Mākirikiri Marae

Ko Takitimu tōku waka
Ko Ruahine tōku maunga
Ko Manawatū tōku awa
Ko Mākirikiri tōku marae
Ko Rangitāne, ko Te Arawa ōku iwi
Ko Ngāti Mutuahi tōku hapū
Ko Greg Mitchell tōku pāpā
Ko Rewa Paewai tōku māmā
Ko Roimata ahau.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

I am a lawyer with over 12 years' post-qualification experience across Aotearoa, Australia and the UK, and have worked as an Ombudsman at AFCA for approximately one year. I hold an LLB and BCom (Accounting).

My expertise includes investment management, financial regulation, fiduciary duties, risk and corporate governance. I have served as a company secretary, INFINZ Young Finance Professionals Chair, NZ Anti-vivisection Society board member and Egypt Equine Aid board secretary.

I have been the Treasurer of Mākirikiri Marae for 10 years.

WHY TRUSTEE?

I am standing to contribute my legal, financial and governance expertise to the long-term prosperity of Rangitāne. I would bring independent judgment, integrity, sound financial oversight and a commitment to transparent, accountable governance.

I want to support responsible stewardship of iwi assets, meaningful engagement with whānau and decisions that reflect tikanga and the aspirations of our people.

My focus would be on sustainable outcomes for our mokopuna and ensuring that the Trust's resources deliver enduring benefits for generations to come.

Matthew Ngaputa-Cripps

Ngāti Te Rangiwhakaewa · Mākirikiri Marae

Ko Ruahine te maunga.
Ko Manawatū te awa.
Ko Kurahaupō te waka.
Ko Rangitāne te iwi.
Ko Ngāti Te Rangiwhakaewa te hapū.
Ko Mākirikiri te marae.
Ko Aotea Tuatoru te wharenui.
Ko Matthew Ngaputa-Cripps tōku ingoa.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

I'm a graphic and web designer based in Melbourne, where I run our family business, Malgraphix Design. My skills include branding, visual communication, website development and creating practical digital tools that support people and organisations.

Although I have lived away from my iwi for many years, my connection to Rangitāne remains deeply important to me.

WHY TRUSTEE?

I have a strong desire to reconnect, strengthen my relationships with whānau and iwi, and become more actively involved.

I'm keen to listen, learn and contribute the skills and experience I've gained over the years. For me, this is about finding meaningful ways to give back, support our kaupapa and play a part in the future of our iwi.

Mahalia Paewai

Ngāti Mutuahi

Ko Kurahaupo te waka
Ko Tamaki te awa
Ko Ruahine te maunga
Ko Ngati Mutuahi te hapū
Ko Rangitane te iwi
Ko Rangiwhakaewa te tangata
Ko Rangirangi toku tipuna kuia

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

For more than 20 years, I have contributed to Rangitāne and our wider community through governance, senior leadership and service delivery. My governance experience includes serving on the Boards of the Incorporated Society and Charitable Trust and Tū Mai Rā Post Settlement Governance Entity. Over the past 10 years, I have also served intermittently on boards, primarily within the health sector. I have undertaken governance training and am a current member of the Institute of Directors New Zealand.

Operationally, I have held senior leadership positions across iwi, government and non-government organisations, including roles in health, education, child wellbeing and social services. Most recently, I served kaupapa Māori health and social services. My responsibilities included oversight of service quality, workforce capability, strategic development, organisational improvement and multidisciplinary teams.

My early career as a qualified clinical psychologist and practitioner shaped the way I approach leadership, governance and decision-making. My clinical psychology training developed my ability to listen carefully, critically assess complex information, consider risk, apply ethical judgement and make well-reasoned decisions. My clinical work included psychological assessment and intervention using kaupapa Māori and evidence-based frameworks.

This foundation has supported my later leadership in clinical governance, quality assurance, risk management, trauma-informed service delivery and the development of multidisciplinary teams. It has also given mea strong understanding of the experiences of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau with complex needs, and of the importance of culturally responsive, kaupapa Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi-informed practice.

Throughout my career, I have led multidisciplinary teams, developed people and workforce capability, supported organisational change and built partnerships across government, iwi and community sectors. I have also held responsibility for budgets exceeding $8 million, strengthening my skills in financial oversight, resource management, organisational performance and accountability.

I am currently one paper away from completing my Master of Business Administration. This has further developed my knowledge of financial analysis and performance, governance, international markets, people capability and leadership for growth. For my MBA High Impact paper, I researched the critical skills required and general managers, as well as other iwi leaders, and used their insights to develop a proposed model of effective governance for the organisation.

I also remain actively involved with Makirikiri Marae and am currently a member of the working party supporting the planned kitchen renovation.

Mahalia Paewai (continued)

Ngāti Mutuahi

WHY TRUSTEE?

My decision to stand as a Trustee comes from a genuine and longstanding commitment to Rangitāne. For more than 20 years, I have had the privilege of contributing to our iwi through governance, operational leadership and community service. I am standing because I want to continue using the knowledge and experience I have gained to support strong governance and create positive, enduring outcomes for our whānau, hapū and future generations.

I believe trusteeship is first and foremost a position of service. It carries a responsibility to listen to our people, understand their aspirations, protect the interests of the iwi and make decisions that will stand the test of time. I want to contribute to governance that is transparent, accountable and grounded in the cultural, social and economic aspirations of Rangitāne.

I would bring a combination of governance knowledge, senior leadership experience, financial understanding and practical knowledge of delivering services to whānau and communities. My background as a clinical psychologist has taught me to listen carefully, consider different perspectives, analyse complex information and approach difficult decisions with both compassion and objectivity. It has also reinforced the importance of ethical practice, confidentiality, professional accountability and maintaining a clear focus on the wellbeing of people and whānau.

My wider leadership experience would enable me to contribute to strategic planning, financial oversight, risk management, organisational performance and the development of effective relationships. I understand the distinction between governance and management and recognise that a Trustee must provide direction and oversight while respecting the responsibilities of operational leadership.

I would bring an independent and considered voice, the confidence to ask constructive questions and a willingness to respectfully challenge ideas when necessary. At the same time, I recognise that effective governance is a collective responsibility. It requires Trustees to listen to one another, work through different perspectives and remain united in their commitment to the best interests of Rangitāne.

Most importantly, I would bring a genuine commitment to serve our people. If elected, I would approach the role with integrity, humility and accountability. I would work constructively with fellow Trustees, leadership and whānau to ensure that decisions are well informed, financially responsible and aligned with the long-term aspirations of Rangitāne.

Stephen Paewai

Ngāti Mutuahi · Mākirikiri Marae

Ko Ruahine te Maunga
Ko Manawatu te Awa
Ko Makirikiri te Marae
Ko Kurahaupo te Waka
Ko Ngati Mutuahi te Hapu
Ko Rangitane te Iwi
Ko Stephen Paewai au

I was educated at Ruahine and Dannevirke High Schools and completed a BCom from the University of Canterbury. I am a member of the NZ Institute of Directors.

I worked for 18 years at the Department of Maori Affairs with the majority of my time working in several Registries of the Maori Land Court. Two of the many highlights were as the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Commission of the Maori Land Court and being one of two Liaison Officers that lead the New Zealand Contingent to the South Pacific Festival of Arts in Papua New Guinea.

After returning home to Dannevirke I became actively involved with Rangitane o Tamaki Nui a Rua Inc. firstly as a Board member and then as the Chief Executive Officer. After resigning I represented Rangitane in Fisheries and in the Health Sector. I had a term on the MidCentral DHB and I've served numerous committees at Palmerston North Hospital. I was an original member of the Tararua PHO and after merging with the other 3 PHO's in the District I was a member of the Central PHO, that later became Think Hauora. I represented Rangitane on the new Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Highway Project. I currently Chair Te Ohu Tiaki o Rangitane Te Ika A Maui Trust, the fisheries entity that is made up of the three Rangitane North Island Runanga.

Te Turanga Reweti

Ngāti Pakapaka · Kaitoki Marae

Ko Rangitāne tōku iwi. He hononga whakapapa tōku ki Kaitoki Marae me Ngāti Pakapaka. He mea nui ki ahau te pupuri me te whakakaha i tō tātou Rangitānetanga, ō tātou tikanga, tō tātou reo me ngā hononga ki ō tātou tūpuna.

I am proud of my connection to Rangitāne and the whakapapa that connects me to Kaitoki Marae and Ngāti Pakapaka. I am passionate about ensuring our identity, culture and mātauranga are carried forward for our future generations.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

As a kaiako, I am actively involved in Rangitānetanga and understand the important role education plays in shaping the future of our tamariki and mokopuna. My connections with Kaitoki Kōhanga Reo and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tāmaki-nui-ā-Rua have strengthened my commitment to kaupapa Māori education, te reo Māori and nurturing the next generation. I value relationships, collaboration and working together to achieve positive outcomes for our whānau and iwi.

WHY TRUSTEE?

I am standing because I believe we have a responsibility to think beyond ourselves and make decisions that will benefit the generations who come after us. Our tamariki and mokopuna are our future, and we must ensure they inherit an iwi that is strong in its identity, connected to its whakapapa and proud of its history.

I would bring an education and whānau-focused perspective to the Board, along with a commitment to listening, working collectively and supporting opportunities for our people. I want to see our rangatahi confident in who they are and our mokopuna knowing who they are, where they come from and the strength of the people they belong to.

Mō ngā uri whakatipu – for the generations yet to come.